



FAN – Friends and Neighbours

Newsletter

No.1 December 2023

...Bringing people together
to meet, listen and talk...

The FAN Charity would like to share with you a little about our recent activities

FAN@20 2003 - 2023



**FAN Friends and
Supporters
at the Temple of
Peace, Cardiff
29 April 2023**

The first FAN Group was established by Gill Saunders an English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) teacher in Spring 2003 as a way for her students to meet British people to practise listening to and speaking the English language. In the past 20 years FAN Groups have sprung up across South Wales and since the Lockdown, on-line, giving people an opportunity to meet together in friendship, to offset loneliness and isolation and to practise English – or Welsh, in a safe friendly environment. Thanks to the support of the National Lottery Community Fund Awards for All we were able to celebrate this wonderful achievement of 20 years of FAN at events in Cardiff, Llanelli and online. FAN participants were enabled to share their ideas through poetry and photography and to meet FAN Friends and supporters across the whole region, cementing friendships and celebrating everything that we value about FAN.

See more photos of our celebration, and of FAN over the last 20 years here <https://www.thefancharity.org/>



FAN Friends from West Wales celebrating FAN@20 in Llanelli on 17 June 2023

Facilitator Training and Support goes from strength to strength



FAN Facilitator Meeting on Zoom, 17 November 2023

FAN Facilitators are vital to the successful functioning of FAN Groups. They are volunteers who help FAN market the weekly meetings of the Groups, keep in touch with regulars, welcome new attendees, and take the meetings. In the last few years, we have developed a successful Facilitator Training Programme and regular Facilitator Get Togethers. These give an opportunity for our Facilitators to share experience and best practice across all our diverse Groups in South Wales and elsewhere. Most of these activities are held on Zoom, and some in person - with more than 47 Facilitators trained so far in 2023.

If you would like to know more about training to be a Facilitator please email welcome_all@thefancharity.org.

Thank you FAN Funders!



**The busy
Penylan Hub
FAN meeting in
Cardiff**

Support from the National Lottery Community Fund (NLCF) People and Places continues to May 2025 and our work building a network of sustainable FAN Groups and bring the benefits of FAN to even more people in Cardiff and West Wales is going well. After a period of financial uncertainty, we are delighted to have also received Cost of Living Support from NLCF which secures our core staffing until May 2025. Securing this funding means that Development and Support Officers, Janina and Philippa can concentrate on growing and supporting FAN Groups while our Trustees supported by our manager Sarah, can focus on planning for the future and securing further funding.



FAN Getting Out and About

– Deepika, Steve and Janina at the Minority Ethnic Health Fayre,

Cardiff, 4 October 2023

Autumn 2023 was a busy time for FAN volunteers and staff – taking information about FAN out into the wider community.

We are delighted that we have successfully secured funding from the Postcode Community Trust to recruit and train more FAN Ambassadors in South Wales – fans of FAN who are able to go out to promote what we do in their communities.

In addition, FAN friends in Swansea will be creating a book of recipes and stories to share to increase confidence and promote local integration. Thanks to the UK Government Levelling Up funds for supporting this project.

This is our first newsletter. We hope you have enjoyed reading it. The next issue will be available in June 2024 and you can sign up to receive it straight to your inbox by emailing sarah.duncan-jones@thefancharity.org with newsletter in the subject box. If you have any suggestions for future newsletters please let us know.

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We are grateful for the support of The National Lottery Community Fund, UK Government Levelling Up and Shared Prosperity Funds, The Gibbs Trust, Local Giving Magic Little Grants, The Postcode Community Trust.

All FAN Groups are free and are open to all, but we are a charity and rely on funding to continue our work. If you feel you are able to give please go to our website <https://www.thefancharity.org/donate-to-fan/> your support will mean that we can host our groups for free, for everyone.